

905. *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS*.

923. *ARDEA CINEREA*.

936. *BOTAURUS STELLARIS*.

957. *SPATULA CLYPEATA*.

958. *ANAS BOSCAS*.

961. *CHAULELASMUS STREPERUS*.

962. *MARECA PENELOPE*.

964. *QUERQUEDULA CRECCA*.

969. *FULIGULA NYROCA*.

The Ducks are only passengers through in the autumn and spring. There is a marsh about a mile from the town, where they frequently take twenty-four hours' rest on their way to the plains. They never stay longer by any chance. On their return journey very few rest here.

975. *PODICEPS MINOR*.

984. *HYDROCHELIDON INDICA*.

986. *STERNA HIRUNDO*.

1005. *GRACULUS CARBO*. "Jel Kavar."

1007. *GRACULUS JAVANICUS*.

XLII.—*Notes on a Collection of Birds from Lankoran*.

By HENRY SEEBOHM.

AN opportunity of examining a collection of 600 skins of birds from the vicinity of Lankoran, on the southern shores of the Caspian, enables me to add several species to the list of Persian birds, and to make some corrections in geographical distribution.

AQUILA NÆVIA.

Four examples of the Spotted Eagle belong to the larger of the two European forms, and would be regarded as *A. clanga* by those ornithologists who separate them.

BUTEO MENETRIESI.

Eight Buzzards vary in length of wing from 16 to 15

inches. The smaller birds (probably males) have no bars on the basal three fourths of the tail, and are very chestnut in colour. The larger birds (probably females) have the tail regularly barred, and are dark brown in colour, more or less suffused with chestnut on the head, wing- and tail-coverts, and the underparts. I think these birds must be regarded as rather large examples of *B. desertorum*.

ERITHACUS GOLZI.

Seven specimens of Nightingales belong to the long-tailed species known as the Persian Nightingale.

PRATINCOLA MAURA.

Three male Stonechats belong to the eastern form of this bird, having unspotted white rumps.

ACROCEPHALUS TURDOIDES.

A series of fifteen Great Reed-Warblers satisfactorily disposes of the doubts which have hitherto been felt as to the correctness of the identification of this species by Ménétries. Its breeding-range must therefore be regarded as extending into North Persia and West Turkestan. In Severtzow's collection I found examples of this species, as well as of *A. stentoreus*, the species which Blanford found in South Persia. The Lankoran skins vary in length of wing from 3·9 to 3·6 inches, and have the second primary equal to the third or fourth.

ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS (Briss.).

ACROCEPHALUS PALUSTRIS.

Of a series of sixteen small Reed-Warblers, one only proves to be the Reed-Warbler, all the others being Marsh-Warblers.

HYPOLAIS PALLIDA-RAMA.

Three examples of Tree-Warblers are, like most of those collected in Persia by Blanford, intermediate between *H. pallida* and *H. rama*.

HYPOLAIS ICTERINA.

An example of the Icterine Tree-Warbler adds a new species to the list of Persian birds.

SYLVIA NISORIA.

SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA.

Four male Blackcaps and one female are interesting as confirming the identification of Ménétries. East Persia appears to be the eastern limit of the range of this species ; but the Barred Warbler is found throughout Russian Turkestan.

SYLVIA FUSCIPILEA.

Curruca cinerea, var. *persica*, Filippi, Viagg. Pers. pp. 162, 348 (1865).

Sylvia cinerea, β . *fuscipilea*, Severtzow, Journ. Orn. 1875, p. 176.

An example of the eastern form of the Whitethroat is interesting. It seems to me to be fairly entitled to subspecific rank. It is slightly larger than our bird (wing 3 inches) ; the general colour of the upper parts is darker and greyer, especially on the head and neck, and the chestnut on the wing-coverts is much duller. I have three examples, obtained by Tancrè's collectors in the Altai Mountains ; Prjevalski obtained it in the Eastern Thian-Shan range, Severtzow found it in Turkestan, and various collectors have obtained it in Persia. In the two latter countries our bird also appears.

SYLVIA CURRUCA.

An example of the Lesser Whitethroat belongs to the western and not to the eastern form. The second primary is intermediate in length between the fifth and sixth.

SYLVIA MYSTACEA.

Three males and a female of Bowman's Warbler are very interesting, being in full breeding-plumage. Neither Blanford's plate of *Sylvia rubescens* ('Eastern Persia,' ii. pl. xii.) nor Dresser's plate of *Sylvia momus* ('Birds of Europe,' ii. pl. lxiii.) do justice to this beautiful bird, which has the black head of *S. melanocephala*, and the vinous red breast and throat of *S. subalpina*.

PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS.

PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS.

Five examples of the former and three of the latter species are interesting, confirming the correctness of Blanford's identifications, and showing that both the Willow-Wren and the Chiffchaff occur in North Persia.

PARUS PENDULINUS.

A skin of the Penduline Tit does not differ from European examples.

PARUS LUGUBRIS.

A skin of the Sombre Tit agrees with examples from Greece and Asia Minor, and does not show the tendency to be greyer above and whiter below which Blanford found in examples from South Persia.

EMBERIZA CIA.

An example of the Meadow-Bunting is intermediate between the eastern and western forms, and might almost be regarded as *E. stracheyi*, but being in the abraded plumage of late summer is difficult to determine.

MOTACILLA MELANOCEPHALA.

MOTACILLA FLAVA.

MOTACILLA RAYI.

Six males and two females of this Yellow Wagtail are very interesting examples, showing that there is no difference to be found in the plumage of specimens from the eastern colony in the basin of the Caspian, and those from the western colony on the shores of the Atlantic. This is one of the most interesting cases of a discontinuous area of distribution with which I am acquainted. Amongst the examples of *M. melanocephala* is one with a brilliant yellow eye-stripe—a very curious variety, if it is not a hybrid between *M. rayi* and *M. melanocephala*.

ALCEDO ISPIDA.

Two skins of Kingfishers are intermediate between the western and eastern forms of this species (wing 2·8 inches), and might be regarded as large examples of *A. bengalensis*.

These intermediate forms have been called *A. pallasii*. There can be little doubt that the three forms are merely local races of one species.

ARDEA COMATA.

Nine Squacco Herons add a species to the list of Persian birds enumerated by Blanford, and confirm the statements of Pallas that this species is found on the Caspian. There can be little doubt that this was the species seen by Filippi in countless numbers, and not the Buff-backed Heron, as he supposed. So far as I can ascertain, the latter bird (*A. bubulcus*) is only a very rare and accidental straggler beyond Africa, Spain, and Palestine.

PORPHYRIO POLIOCEPHALUS.

Ten examples of the Indian Purple Gallinule, with green wings and blue-green throat and breast, contrasting with the purple of the rest of the plumage, are very interesting. It seems probable that *P. cæruleus* is confined to South Europe and North Africa west of the Adriatic, being replaced in North-east Africa by *P. smaragdonotus*, with purple wings and a green back, and in Asia by *P. poliocephalus*, but being unrepresented in East Europe*.

CHARADRIUS ASIATICUS.

Two examples confirm the correctness of the locality given by Pallas for the Caspian Plover.

TOTANUS FUSCUS.

An example of the Spotted Redshank confirms the statement of Pallas that this species winters on the southern shores of the Caspian.

CYGNUS OLOR.

One example of the Mute Swan adds a species to the list of Persian birds.

ERISMATURA LEUCOCEPHALA.

Thirty-six examples of the White-headed Duck entitles this species to be added to the Persian list.

* See remarks on this subject by Mr. Selater, 'Ibis,' 1879, p. 196.